

31780 to 31832—Continued.**31820. ERUCA SATIVA Hill.****Roquette.**

From Karawag, Chinese Turkestan.

"(No. 1515a, December 10, 1910.) A variety slightly different from No. 1514a (S. P. I. No. 31819); also comes from a warmer locality. Native name *Sa-un*. The same remarks as made under No. 1514a (S. P. I. No. 31819) apply also to this one." (Meyer.)

31821. BRASSICA NAPUS L.**Mustard.**

From Khasan-dugra, Chinese Turkestan.

"(No. 1516a, December 7, 1910.) A mustard which is said to grow very tall. Likes a somewhat alkaline soil. An oil that is used to smear over bread in the baking process is expressed from the seeds. To be tested with care, as it may be of a weedy disposition." (Meyer.)

31822. ELAEAGNUS ANGUSTIFOLIA L.**Oleaster.**

From Upal, Chinese Turkestan.

"(No. 1546a, December 31, 1910.) The oleaster is mostly seen as a tall shrub, but in good situations it grows sometimes to be a fair-sized tree. All things considered, it is perhaps the most useful tree in Chinese Turkestan. When well kept it supplies excellent hedges, almost impenetrable to man and beast. From the branches stuck in the ground in slanting and zigzag fashion, very good temporary fences can be made. As a windbreak it is unexcelled, keeping the drying desert winds off the cultivated lands of the oasis. As a sand binder it is of great value, checking blowing and encroaching desert sands to a great extent; also where washouts are experienced, its masses of fibrous roots retain the soil to a great extent.

"In many oases its wood constitutes the chief fuel supply, and to furnish this firewood the trees are pollarded every four to six years without suffering. The wood, when dry, possesses fine heating qualities and makes a good bed of live coals which lasts the whole night when covered up with ashes.

"The fruits of the wild form are too small and too astringent to be of any value to man, but some of the cultivated forms supply a sweetmeat to children. The dry cast-off leaves are a favorite food of sheep, goats, donkeys, and cattle. The flowers possess a remarkably sweet odor and seem to be rich in honey.

"Its highly ornamental qualities combined with drought and alkali resistant capacities put it in the first class as a desirable garden and park shrub or tree in the more arid parts of the United States. Its silvery-gray foliage resembles the olive very much, while in autumn the contrast between it and the multitude of generally orange-red small fruits is gloriously beautiful.

"The habit of this oleaster is extremely variable, the majority of the trees drooping gracefully when becoming old; some, however, assume quite rigid outlines. The size of the fruit also varies considerably, ranging from that of a pea up to an ordinary date. The berries vary from pure white on some trees to dark brownish red on others. Even in the leaves there is considerable variation in size, nuances of grayish green, and the relative quantity a tree may possess.

"The roots are sometimes a mass of nodules and, as the trees often grow quite luxuriantly even in pure sand, they seem to derive nutrition from these tubercles and, perhaps, even fertilize the soil to some extent. One notices, for instance, that crops, though close up to a row of oleaster trees, are not impoverished to any extent. For this reason the natives of central Asia seem to prefer this tree to any other sort of windbreak. The plants are able to grow in pure